



Amesbury

Mayor Kassandra Gove

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March 21, 2020

Charlie Baker, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Emergency Declaration to allow alcohol sales with takeout orders

Dear Governor Baker:

As Merrimack Valley-area mayors, and in support of the efforts of Senator Diana DiZoglio, local Chambers of Commerce, we write to urge you to use your emergency powers to pass provisions permitting local restaurants here in Massachusetts to allow takeout and delivery options for beer, wine, and liquor, along with food purchases.

Such action would greatly help restaurants across the Commonwealth as they work to stay afloat amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the Commonwealth, we are seeing many small, local restaurants and pubs adversely impacted by COVID-19. Countless mom and pop establishments are fearful that in addition to layoffs and lost revenue, they will not be able to reopen their doors once this shutdown is over. Chambers of Commerce in Massachusetts are in agreement that lost revenue from beverage sales during the shutdown could be devastating.

This declaration will help alleviate the burden that restaurants in our communities are feeling and allow them to retain their employees. Other states have taken similar measures, including Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York, Illinois, Maryland and Texas. Every day counts during these unprecedented times and we feel the best way to accomplish this quickly is to follow these states that have done this through an executive order. We understand there are concerns regarding where takeout beverages are consumed and trust you will provide proper guidelines in your order.

We hope you will put Massachusetts on the same page with other states and help our small businesses and the many neighbors they employ to weather this storm. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kassandra Gove
Mayor, Amesbury

James Fiorentini
Mayor, Haverhill

Neil Perry
Mayor, Methuen

Donna Holaday
Mayor, Newburyport